13th September 1958]

* 178 *Q.*—Sri A. VEDARATHNAM : கனம் உள் விவகார அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் தயவுசெய்து பதிலளிப்பாரா—

இம் மாகாணத்தில் பருவ மழை தவறுமிடங்களில் செயற்கை மழை உண்டாக்க அரசாங்கம் என்ன முயற்சி எடுத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறது ?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The question of producing artificial rain has been engaging the attention of this Government since 1951.

In November 1954, the Government constituted the State Rain-making Committee with the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) as Chairman and the Director of Agriculture, Director, Regional Meteorological Centre, and a few Engineers and the Agricultural Meteorologist, Coimbatore, as members. This Committee did some rain-making experiments at a few selected centres in the Nilgiris district in 1955 and 1956. It was tentatively concluded that there is an appreciable increase of rain in the downward direction at the places of experiment on the days when rain had occurred over the area.

The Government have sanctioned a scheme for the conduct of experiments on artificial rain-making in Coimbatore in the current season at a cost of Rs. 5,000. The entire trials hitherto under artificial rain-making will be reviewed by the Committee. The Government have also taken steps to obtain literature on rain-making experiments and machinery used from Australia for this purpose. The Government of India have also been addressed to depute an officer of this Government abroad for training in artificial rain-making techniques.

The science of rain-making is in its initial stage. The stage has not been reached when trials can be started wherever seasonal rains fail in any area in the State.

* 179 *Q.*—Sri N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the experiment conducted on artificial rain is successful in this State;

(*b*) the number of staff employed and their pay; and

(*c*) whether the experiments have been extended to all the districts?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) The experiments conducted by Government on artificial rain-making at a few selected centres in the Nilgiris district in 1955 and 1956 and in Madras in 1954 and 1955 have indicated encouraging results. Final conclusions regarding the success of the trials have not been arrived at yet. The matter is still under consideration of the Artificial Rain-making Reviewing Committee set up by the Government with the Chief Engineer for Irrigation as Chairman.

(*b*) For the trials now in progress at Coimbatore, one Technical Assistant in the scale of pay of Rs. 100—5—150—10—250 and two welding operators on muster roll basis have been appointed by the Chief Engineer for a period of one year from 1st June 1958. Apart from this, a special pay of Rs. 35 per mensem each for the team of three Government officers (Divisional Electrical Engineer, Physics and Soil Mechanics Officer, Public Works Deparment, and Agricultural Meteorologist), forming the Sub-Committee members and Rs. 20 per mensem each for the Subdivisional Officers of the Electricity Department, who actually assisted in conducting the trials, has been sanctioned.

(*c*) The experiments are confined to Coimbatore only at present. The question of extending the experiments to other places will be decided upon after reviewing the results of experiments already undertaken.

* 228-A *Q*.—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the experiment on making artificial rain would be resumed during the year 1958–59;

(*b*) if so, what are the districts selected for the experiment;

(*c*) if the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the negative, what is the work of the Experiment Committee for the year 1958–59; and

(*d*) whether a statement of the work done by the Experiment Committee since its inception be placed on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) The experiments have already been started at Coimbatore on 19th June 1958 and are now in progress.

(*b*) The place at present selected for experiments is Coimbatore region.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) A statement [a] of the work done by the Experiment Committee since its incepton is placed on the table of the House.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Sir, what is the cost involved in making such experiments and will the Government open a separate department in view of the importance of artificial rain-making in our State?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I may tell the hon. Member that the science of artificial rain-making is at the infant stage. Therefore, it will not be useful at all to have this on a wider basis. We are now conducting these experiments at very small expenditure.

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 871–872 infra.